SPRING CULTURE IN THE SOUTH - Tony Kuhn

Sometime during March in South Florida, (and correspondently later in the middle and north of Florida) according to the weather, make your major cut back on your Hibiscus. As soon as you see your Hibiscus about to sprout new leaves is the best time to get busy. Cut your Hibiscus back to a height you desire. Cut out all dead wood and all overlapping twigs. Look for necrotic deep brown spots on your stems. If you find any, cut one (1) inch below the dead spot. Your plant will grow faster and healthier.

Water your plants twelve (12) to twenty-four (24) hours thoroughly before fertilizing. If your plants were dormant or in a starvation condition use an application of 6-6-6 preferably high in organic content. Use 4-8-8 for the rest of the year. You may find a leaf spray of Hyponex mixed one (1) tablespoon to one (1) gallon of water beneficial.

Happy growing and good luck.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (from page 2)

In parting, let me say that now is the time to mineralize the soil around your Hibiscus plants to make them disease resistent and help them assimilate the fertilizer you give them. I suggest a liberal application of any good organic fertilizer, such as rotted dairy manure, sheep manure or Milorganite. I personally prefer Milorganite, because it is thoroughly sterile and no foreign plants or weeds result. from its application.

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